

Message Text

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65

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12

NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-07

NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EAGR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT OF FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON MEAT,
SEPTEMBER 22-26.

PASS USDA

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

SUMMARY: THE FIFTH SESSION OF FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON
MEAT MET IN ROME FROM SEPTEMBER 22-26, 1975. THIS SESSION WAS
MARKED BY ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE BETWEEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND
THE EEC OVER LATTER'S TRADE RESTRICTIONS WHICH WERE
CITED AS ONE OF MAIN PROBLEMS FACING THE INTERNATIONAL MEAT
TRADE. THIS LED TO MAJORITY OF DEBATE CENTERING AROUND MARKET
ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES RATHER THAN TECHNICAL MEAT
PRODUCTION ISSUES. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CITED SEVENTH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE UNGA AND NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER TO
BUTTRESS THEIR ARGUMENTS FOR BETTER AND PREFERRED MARKET ACCESS
TO DEVELOPED COUNTRY MARKETS. U.S. CAME UNDER NO CRITICISM
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AND FACT WAS PRAISED FOR ITS RELATIVELY OPEN MARKET. END SUMMARY.

1. FIFTH SESSION OF FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON MEAT (IG ON MEAT) CONSIDERED CURRENT MEAT PRODUCTION AND TRADE SITUATION AND PROSPECTS. NO CHANGES FROM CURRENT ESTIMATES WERE NOTED, BUT IMPORTANCE OF USSR AS A MAJOR BUYER WAS EVIDENT AND DELEGATES EXPECTED USSR PURCHASES TO INCREASE IN 1976. A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL MEAT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME WAS ACCEPTED AND DISCUSSION WAS DEFERRED ON THE MANUAL ON VETERINARY SERVICES. IG ON MEAT ALSO ACCEPTED AND COMMENTED FAO COMPENDIUMS ON NATIONAL REGULATIONS AFFECTING MEAT IMPORTS AND PACKAGING REGULATIONS.

2. AGENDA ITEM "MARKET ACCESS AND RELATED PROBLEMS" BECAME HEART OF DEBATE. LATIN AMERICAN BEEF EXPORTERS STARTED OFF ATTACKING THE EEC BY QUESTIONING ITS SPECIAL ROLE OF ACTIVE PARTICIPANT AND OBSERVER IN IG ON MEAT. FINALLY BRAZIL ASKED FOR FAO LEGAL OPINION ON STATUS OF EEC BE PREPARED FOR FUTURE BEFORE ACQUIESCING TO STATUS QUO FOR THIS MEETING. LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES THEN HAMMERED ON THE EEC'S DECISION TO STOP MEAT IMPORTS. THEY WERE SUPPORTED BY EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THIS EFFORT CULMINATED IN A DRAFT RESOLUTION ASKING THE EEC TO INCREASE GATT EEC/QUOTA ON FROZEN BEEF FOR PROCESSING TO 200,000 TONS WITH PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. LONG DEBATE TO REDUCE THIS TO EXPRESSION OF INTENT OF SOME COUNTRIES TO ASK EEC FOR QUOTA INCREASES LED THE IG ON MEAT INTO LONG DISCUSSION OF TRADE POLICY, NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND FUNCTION OF IG ON MEAT. IN THE END, MOST DELEGATES AGREED THAT GATT WAS BEST FORUM TO NEGOTIATE SPECIFIC TRADE ACCESS ISSUES, BUT MORE DEBATES OF THIS NATURE CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE FUTURE. IG ON MEAT DEBATE ON THIS SUBJECT WAS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT FROM UNCTAD WHICH DESCRIBES SYSTEM OF POSSIBLE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE MEAT SECTOR. THE KEY TO UNCTAD'S PROPOSAL ARE LONG TERM CONTRACTS AND IMPORT FORMULA BASED ON BEEF SELF-SUFFICIENCY RATIOS. THIS SUMMARY REPORT MADE BY UNCTAD REPRESENTATIVE COMES FROM PAPER BEING PREPARED WITHIN UNCTAD INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAM AND WILL BE CONSIDERED BY UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES TO BE HELD IN GENEVA DEC. 8-19. UNCTAD PAPER FITS COLOSELY WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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FAO'S MORE GENERAL OWN GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (CCP:ME 75/4 PAGES 24-26), WHICH IG ON MEAT MERELY NOTED AND PUT OFF FOR CAREFUL STUDY TO NEXT YEAR. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WELCOMED THESE EFFORTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND PROMISES OF GREATER MARKET ACCESS, AND PREFERENCES.

3. NO NEW ITEMS WERE RAISED AND IG ON MEAT AGREED TO MEET AGAIN

IN A YEAR IN ROME.

COMMENT: PRIVATELY MANY DELEGATES AND MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS OVER USELESS WRANGLING OVER TRADE POLICIES BETWEEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND EEC. THIS IS AN EXPERT GROUP ON MEAT PRODUCTION AND TRADE, BUT FEW DELEGATIONS HAD NATIONAL EXPERTS ON THEIR DELEGATIONS CAPABLE OF DISCUSSING THE TECHNICAL MEAT PRODUCTION AND ECONOMIC ISSUES RAISED BY THE FAO PAPERS. AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO STEER THE GROUP BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSES IF IT IS TO REMAIN A USEFUL FORUM AS NOW CONSTITUTED. THIS MAY BE RAISED IN FAO COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS BY A NUMBER OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. VOLPE

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